

Message

---

**From:** Opalski, Dan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8B5ED6410D934BF699A008A252791A55-OPALSKI, DAN]  
**Sent:** 1/20/2021 3:41:11 PM  
**To:** Martinson, Mathew [martinson.mathew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Water Office head, OWOW

Nope.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2021, at 7:37 AM, Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov> wrote:

Do you know much beyond what's in this article? I've never heard of her, even in public works circles.

*CAPT Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE*  
*U.S. Public Health Service*  
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)  
206-247-2254 (Cell)

---

**From:** Murchie, Peter <Murchie.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:50 AM  
**To:** Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Chung, Angela <Chung.Angela@epa.gov>; Grandinetti, Cami <Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov>; Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Water Office head, OWOW

FYI  
Peter

TRANSITION

## Biden to tap Radhika Fox to head EPA water office

Radhika Fox and Kevin Shafer. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Photo by Bill Clark for Newscom.

Radhika Fox is CEO of the U.S. Water Alliance. Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call/Newscom

President-elect Joe Biden is poised to appoint Radhika Fox, CEO of the nonprofit U.S. Water Alliance and a former San Francisco utility official, to lead EPA's Office of Water, according to a source familiar with the decision.

Fox has been advising the Biden campaign for months and in July backed Biden's plan to use infrastructure investments to address racial and environmental justice disparities ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 30, 2020).

"As we enter general election season, we call on all candidates to do the same," wrote Fox and Kevin Shafer, executive director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. "From Presidential down to town council, share your plans to invest in America's water systems, roads, bridges, schools, and broadband."

Requests for comment from Fox and the Biden transition team weren't immediately returned.

Before joining the U.S. Water Alliance in 2015, Fox served for four years as a regulator in California.

From August 2011 to January 2015, she was director of policy and government affairs for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, where she directed the department's policy agenda and political strategy as it provided water, wastewater and power to 2.6 million Bay Area residents.

From 2000 to 2011, Fox was director of federal policy at PolicyLink in Oakland, Calif., where she developed and coordinated the organization's federal policy agenda, crafted and executed the political strategy for shaping legislation being considered by Congress, worked on annual appropriations, and advised the White House, according to her online bio.

She has a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **EPA personnel changes**

EPA today announced a number of staffers will move into new positions beginning Jan. 24 within the Office of Water, according to an email obtained by E&E News.

Anna Wildeman, the acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water, told staff in an email that John Goodin will be the office's new deputy assistant administrator for policy.

Goodin, who has served as director of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) since 2017, was first hired at EPA in 1990 as a biologist in the agency's wetlands program. He has staffed and led a variety of regulatory and partnership programs, including Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting, state and tribal program development, National Estuary Program and related coastal work, and nutrient reduction efforts, according to the email.

Goodin also served as a chief of two branches, a deputy division director and a division director.

Another EPA veteran, Tom Wall, is being promoted to director of OWOW, according to the email.

Wall most recently served as the director of OWOW's Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, where he oversaw EPA's national water quality monitoring program for surface waters, state identification of polluted waters and development of cleanup plans for those waters, a \$170-million-per-year grant program for controlling runoff from small towns and farms, and several data systems.

Wall, who started his career at EPA in 1985, has also served as deputy director and acting director of EPA's American Indian Environmental Office.

Lastly, Martha Shimkin will take on the role of director of the Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division.

"[Shimkin] has been a critical member of the OW team in recent years, stepping up to fill a variety of roles based on the needs of the Office," wrote Wildeman.

Shimkin served as acting deputy assistant administrator for policy and acting deputy director for both the Office of Wastewater Management and OWOW. Prior to her time in the Office of Water, Martha supported the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention as a senior adviser, the Land and Chemicals Division in Region 3 as acting director, the Office of Children's Health Protection as division director, and the Office of International and Tribal Affairs as Group of Seven coordinator and international health programs lead.

Shimkin took a break from federal service in 2002 for six years to run her own consulting firm that focused on international environmental health policy, according to the email.

